

the House Committee on Commerce. The legislation does not modify, supplement, or otherwise affect the authority of any other Federal law or the standards applicable under any other Federal law, including the Federal Water Pollution Control Act. The language which was included in the House bill, but inadvertently deleted by the Senate amendments, was intended to make clear that the bill does not amend any statute other than the Solid Waste Disposal Act.

Thank you again for your clarification.

Sincerely,

THOMAS J. BLILEY, JR.,
Chairman.

U.S. SENATE, COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS,
Washington, DC, March 5, 1996.

Hon. THOMAS J. BLILEY,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN BLILEY: It has come to my attention that in amending H.R. 2036, the Land Disposal Program Flexibility Act of 1996, the Senate did not incorporate a House provision that was inserted during your Committee's consideration of this legislation. The provision stated that "[n]othing in this paragraph shall be construed to modify, supplement, or otherwise affect the application or authority of any other Federal law or the standards applicable under any other Federal law."

The exclusion of this language from the Senate passed bill should not be viewed as implying a contrary policy on this issue. The legislation passed by the Senate does not modify, supplement, or otherwise affect the application or authority of any other Federal law or the standards applicable under any other Federal law, including the Federal Water Pollution Control Act. I understand this clarification is important to both you and the Chairman of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

H.R. 2036 and its Senate companion, S. 1497, provide a model for moving targeted, commonsense legislation that maintains protection of human health and the environment while removing duplicative or overlapping layers of regulation. It has been a pleasure to work with you and your colleagues in the House to move this legislation expeditiously.

Sincerely,

JOHN H. CHAFEE.

Mrs. LINCOLN. Madam Speaker, further reserving the right to object, and I will not object, I want to thank the gentleman for his explanation and certainly commend him for his bipartisan fashion in which this bill has been handled.

The chairman and the subcommittee chairman here, the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. OXLEY], are certainly to be congratulated for shepherding the bill through the process it has gone through. I, too, believe this bill represents a great bipartisan solution to problems identified under RCRA's existing land disposal restrictions.

As we all know, under the current regulatory regime, industries will be required to put in place over \$800 million a year to install new equipment without corresponding benefits to the environmental health. This is something neither the industrial community nor the Environmental Protection Agency wants. H.R. 2036 resolves this needless investment by incorporating commonsense solutions.

Industries will avoid duplicative regulations under this bill. If their surface

impoundments are in compliance with the Clean Water Act or their underground injection wells are in compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act, industries will not need further treatment technologies to comply with RCRA.

I believe it is an excellent bill. Again I applaud Chairman OXLEY for his hard work. It is a bill that should serve as an example for future environmental legislation as we work together.

It has Republican support, Democratic support, administration support, and the industry support. We have all worked wholeheartedly together.

Again I thank Chairman BLILEY, Chairman OXLEY, and the gentleman from Michigan, Mr. DINGELL, for working with me on this very important issue.

Madam Speaker, I see no other speakers on this side, and the bill has been cleared from our side.

Madam Speaker, I rise to address provisions in H.R. 2036, the Land Disposal Program Flexibility Act.

This is important legislation that will eliminate a mandate that the Environmental Protection Agency [EPA] promulgate under the Solid Waste Disposal Act stringent and costly treatment standards for low-risk wastes that are already being treated to meet standards applicable under the Clean Water Act, simply because the Clean Water Act treatment system uses surface impoundments. In 1990, EPA issued regulations that took the approach adopted by this bill and exempted such wastes from Solid Waste Disposal Act land disposal restrictions and treatment standards. In 1992, however, the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit overturned EPA's regulations. In compliance with the court's order, EPA has issued new regulations that would impose these unnecessary and costly requirements. These regulations will go into effect shortly so it is important for Congress to act expeditiously on this legislation.

Recognizing this urgency, I did not seek a formal referral of H.R. 2036 when it moved through the House. Instead, I worked cooperatively with Chairman BLILEY of the Commerce Committee on any potential Clean Water Act issues raised by the bill. To address my concerns, Chairman BLILEY added language to the bill that specifically states that H.R., 2036 provides no grant of authority to address the wastes managed in surface impoundments that are part of the Clean Water Act treatment systems, beyond the authorities provided under existing law.

Unfortunately, through inadvertent oversight, this language was not included in the Senate amendment to H.R. 2036. However, Senator CHAFEE, chairman of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works has assured me in a letter dated March 5, 1996, that the legislation passed by the Senate also does not modify, supplement, or otherwise affect the application or authority of any other Federal law, or the standards applicable under any other Federal law, including the Clean Water Act.

Because of the urgency of this issue, I will not offer an amendment to H.R. 2036 today to expressly state this intent. Instead, I ask unanimous consent that Senator CHAFEE'S March 5, 1996, letter to me be printed in the RECORD.

U.S. SENATE, COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS,
Washington, DC, March 5, 1996.

Hon. BUD SHUSTER,
U.S. House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN SHUSTER: It has come to my attention that in amending H.R. 2036, the Land Disposal Program Flexibility Act of 1996, the Senate did not incorporate a House provision that was inserted during the Commerce Committee's consideration of this legislation at your request. The provision stated that "[n]othing in this paragraph shall be construed to modify, supplement, or otherwise affect the application or authority of any other Federal law or the standards applicable under any other Federal law."

The elusion of this language from the Senate passed bill should not be viewed as implying a contrary policy in this issue. The legislation passed by the Senate does not modify, supplement, or otherwise affect the application of authority of any other federal law or the standards applicable under any other Federal law, including the Federal Water Pollution Control Act.

H.R. 2036 and its Senate companion, S. 1497, provide a model for moving targeted, commonsense legislation that maintains protection of human health and the environment while removing duplicative or overlapping layers of regulation. It has been a pleasure to work with you and your colleagues in the House to move this legislation expeditiously.

Sincerely,

JOHN H. CHAFEE.

Madam Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the initial request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. OXLEY. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to insert extraneous material on H.R. 2036, the bill just considered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

REPORT ON NATIONAL SECURITY STRATEGY OF THE UNITED STATES—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on National Security:

To the Congress of the United States:

As required by section 603 of the Goldwater-Nichols Department of Defense Reorganization Act of 1986, I am transmitting a report on the National Security Strategy of the United States.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, March 7, 1996.